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on

Icterus or Jaundice

For the degree of Doctor of medicine
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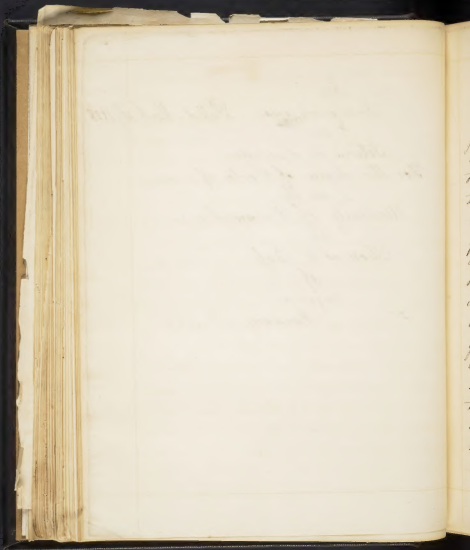
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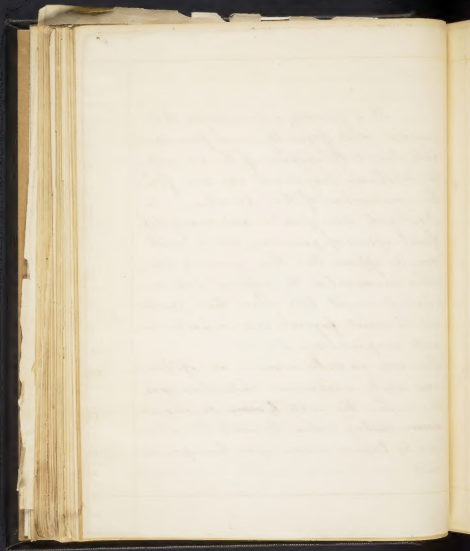
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It is generally acknowledged that jaundice most frequently arises from some obstruction to the passage of the bile into the intestines - May it not also arise from the non-secretion of that fluid?

Nasologists have pointed out many different species of jaundice, but, in most cases, it appears that their ingenuity has rather enumerated the different ways in which it might take place, than pointed out the most frequent and important agents in producing it.

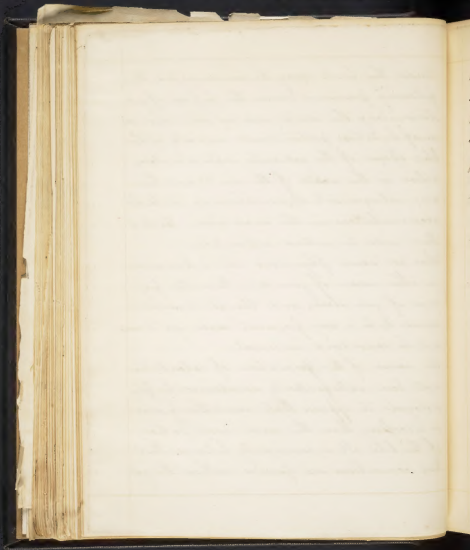
Jaundice generally arises in one of three ways, viz. by mechanical obstruction existing within the ducts, by some functional disease existing within the ducts themselves, and by pressure made upon them from without.



Under this head may be enumerated the following presumed causes, the passage of gall-stones along the ducts, and in some cases even of hydatids, preternatural viscosity of the bile, spasm of the gall-duct, inflammatory action on the coats of the ducts, and liver abscess, enlargement of neighbouring parts, and accumulations in the duodenum. Each of these will be noticed separately.

There are some physicians who acknowledge no other cause of jaundice, than the passage of gall-stones, and though it must be reckoned to be a very frequent cause, yet it cannot be considered universal.

The cause of the formation of calculi has not been satisfactorily ascertained by physiologists. It appears that something more is necessary than the mere inspissation of the bile. It is commonly believed that these concretions are formed within the gall-

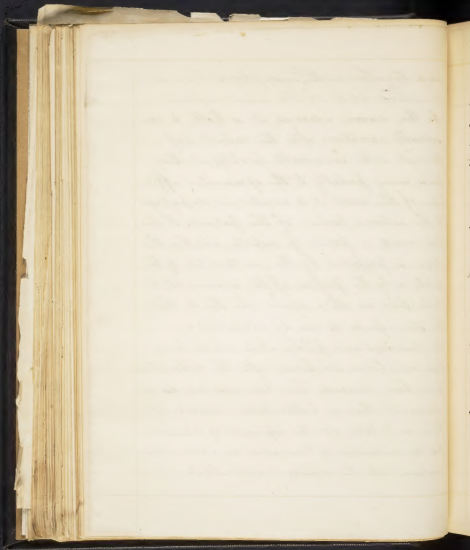


bladder, though Dr Thomas speaks of their be-
 ing found in the parietal, and pericystic
 stroma and cellular substance of the liver.
 A sedentary life seems particularly to predis-
 pose to them; and women are much more
 liable to be affected, than men. When im-
 peded within the gall bladder, the calculi are
 of no inconvenience; but when, from any cause,
 they pass into the ducts, they occasion ex-
 treme pain, and always jaundice, for a while.
 The pain is generally referred to the pit of the
 stomach, and is often more acute, than
 that produced by inflammation of the most
 sensible parts. The patient cannot bear the
 recumbent posture, but sits up with the
 body inclined forwards. The pulse is ^{small} ~~small~~
 accelerated during a severe attack, though
 it is often not more frequent than in health.
 Together with these symptoms, the stomach
 is affected with nausea and vomiting

and together with ^{than} symptoms there is
much debility of the whole system.
As the disease advances, it is liable to con-
siderable variations, often the calculus pass
through with considerable facility; at other
times, owing probably to the spasmodic affec-
tion of the duct, it is arrested in its passage
to the extreme torture of the patient. It has
been made a point of dispute, whether the
stone is propelled by the contractility of the
duct, or by the pressure of the accumulated
bile. There are others again who think that
the stone finds its way by ulceration.*

The tenacious and pitchy stools which have
been sometimes discharged after the obstruction
have been removed, have been adduced as an
argument that a preternatural viscosity of

* We are led to believe from the experiments of P. Quesada
that the composition of these calculi are a little earth
combined with the mineral & volatile alkali.



of the bile is often the cause & the result is on
the same, I think, in diabetes. It is probable that
in some obscure states of the stomach and liver
it might exist in a slight degree. It is likely
the cause of such morbid changes of the bile, as
is little is known. Since the source of it has
been traced to the liver, as the origin is
sole one of various organic & inorganic habits &c.
the actual cause of warm climates, also of
fever somewhat instrumental in producing
such a state of the secretions.

But whether consumption, not retention, and if
detention is the cause of fever, has been adduced
to show that jaundice was produced by stasis
of the ducts. This has been thought to be strength-
ened by the occurrence of hysteria, with it.
The fact is not the case. I think it would be
inappropriate if it should not be conside-
red as a disease of much moment.

Such a state might be supposed to exist from



macerate excrementous, as excrementous from in-
flammation, either in the duct, or in the duct
This has to prevent the proximate cause
of jaundice, has been considered, from the resur-
rectedness from solution to acid, and to cause
in most likely to produce inflammation, in
other parts of the body, from the tendency of
the operation, it is probable that it often can
increase acid in the stomach; and exami-
nations of those who have died of it, often
exhibit the stomach bloated.

Among other causes may be enumerated in-
terruption of menstruation, particularly in the
menstrual and menstrual periods and chronic in-
terruption of the liver. In the last instance,
it may rather be attributed to the diseased
state of that gland, than to proper matter
by it, on the duct. Accumulations in the du-
odenum, by obstructing the flow of bile a-
long the ducts excrementous, more numerous



and as an impediment similar to valvula. The
intermediate connection between sanguiferous and arterial
system of the brain, has been well ascertained.
It often arises from a variety of the causes as quoted
for some cases of loss, as sudden is it that we can
scarcely account for it either by absorption or ex-
cretion. The most cases of Chapman think, are induced
and in an altered secretion of the capillaries. In many
cases of loss after excessive exercise of the brain
and in the form of hot stimuli in which the brain
is affected, an hepatic derangement is apt to occur with it.
Nothing is determined regarding the proportionate cases of jaun-
dice. Chapman contends, with considerable probability,
that it is owing to an altered secretion of the capillaries.
The symptoms necessarily present in jaundice,
are discoloration of the skin and urine, and an
absence of the natural colour of the face.
The intensity of them vary very much; so that, in some cases, the
liver is concentrated only is discoloured. In cases of more ex-
tensive loss, the whole system becomes deeply imbibed with it.



In those still more violent, the colour be-
comes livid or green.

In all the varieties of jaundice, all the sec-
tions become more or less imbricated with
the bile, as the urine, saliva, &c. excretable flu-
ids, and, in some it is absorbed, even the milk;
though there is not sufficient evidence of it
in the latter. Together with the suppurating
liver, emaciated there is languor, inactivity,
a disposition to become mutinously; a livid
sallow coloring of the skin; a sluggish pulse
though in many instances there is consider-
able excitement; and much vomiting, the
urine is commonly scanty and of a yellow
or saffron colour. The stomach is much in-
volved, there is flatulency of food, flatu-
lence and acid eructations the bowels
often affected, the bowels are generally consti-
pated & when stools are procured, they
are of an ash or white colour. Often the



generally received opinion, that the bile is the
necessary exciter of the intestines, we should
be led to believe that an absence of it would
always produce torpor in them; but expe-
rience does not verify the conclusion; for some
times there are no bile; and at others, a dis-
order precedes the latter, I should be too late
here, was occasioned by the excitation of a
crisis of the stomach, giving a preternat-
ural stimulus to the bowels. The symptoms
of yellow is called the acute or black jaundice,
are nearly the same as those of the other va-
riety; but, being generally slower in its pro-
gress, and more difficult to be treated, always ter-
minates fatal.

Little need be said regarding the prognosis
of this disease, as the event is generally not
favorable to the mortification of the
liver. A more distinction of the variety
is not commonly considered to be of service



moment; and, by its long continuance, it
produces some functional derangement in
the secretions of the liver. It is more likely
to terminate so fatally with the young,
whose constitution, are not much impair-
ed. In advanced life, it is often the precur-
sor of a more fatal malady as dropsy, &c.
and is often an evidence of a broken down
constitution. No active period can be
assigned for the continuance of the disease.
Those who have once suffered from it are
much more liable to a return.

In examining the pulse of those who have
fallen victims to it, the pulse seldom is
found to lose all beats of the body, as
the brain, heart, nerves, cartilages &c.

The symptoms of jaundice are so unique
and, that I need not spend any time in
pointing out the diagnostic points, as there
is not much probability of its being confound-



and with any other disease.

From the most different sources causes of purpura it would be evident that the urine is a considerable derivative of humors. When the disease is stable, accompanied with out any great pain or constitutional disturbance, we shall not necessarily be obliged to the assistance of salt; if it is necessary, some mild cathartic may be given. In investigating the cause of this disease, we should ascertain as much as possible to ascertain the condition of the liver, for in the state of that organ, will depend much of our treatment.

The cure must be first attempted by restoring the interrupted secretion or flow of the bile, whether it be produced by catarrh, inflammation, or any other cause. If the bile is stopped by calculi or obstructions of the duct, &c. by the same means must be adopted.



When the irritation, excited by the stony, is so great as the here, in fact, when the mind is agitated there is for inflammation to set in, and as it is with the case of retention the secret, will be forced the gastric secretions. That is left to follow it will be proper take ^{blood} ~~secret~~, both secretions and to alter some liver, & use the medicine. Simulations also are very useful.

With the same intention, the issue is the most be excited by in which the patient may receive quite some degree of quantity of food. It is when the issue is, when there is no fever, a grain of opium might be given, or, what perhaps is appropriate in anodyne enemata.

Some doses of some antispasmodic, such as house, have also been advised, but, from the great irritability of the stomach, they would be productive of little benefit. Emetics have been recommended with the intention of



prohibiting the conversation. We were when the
 form is not more severe, and we do not observe
 that inflammation does it easily,
 during its operation, but proper & the same
 strictly, even to the living system, at, almost
 it a double-headed.

There have been previous with different
 subjects he understood, some, some the
 rule to thrive, sometimes, while others that
 much benefit is derived from a time per-
 sistent, continues a fresh and long system in
 the hands. The plan, and also to be followed, is to
 give advice with regard to the same in-
 mately and, subsequently, to keep the process
 in a suitable state with some other in-
 her, as in respect, the nature calls for the
 book, and also in the volume 1837.

Common as these books have been recom-
 mended for the purpose of ^{the} instruction, ^{of} the
 same may be beneficial, in the interest of



an attack. Electricity has also been known to stimulate the ducts.

Many experiments have been made to find out some medicines that had the power of destroying disease activity, or of preventing their formation, by altering the acrobic conditions of the liver. And there is some the good indication, but it has been necessary to ingest large doses of them is little doubt, but that much may be done to remove the second virus culture, in other words, alkalies, soap, and turpentine, have all been recommended by different writers. The following is given is highly recommended by St John, 1840.

Arum is indigenous to the west coast of the island.

2. *R. barbarica* Steud., *Fl. Japon. Barbarica*. - very similar to *R. R.*
which I took to be *R. R.* because of the same color and very like
the same color, which will cause some error. The color is half
green, half white, in the same color as the same color, and the same
if not, because it is not the same, and the same color is the same color.



however much more, than is necessary, it has been
in the state of the

When the disease has been removed, or is removed, and
with, some organic affection of the liver, we must
have recourse to the decided action of emetics,
together with a liberal use of the mineral wa-
ter. On this point, we must adopt a course somewhat
different from the above.

When we have reason to suppose that jaundice
has arisen from an inflammation of the
liver, we must institute a course of
treatment to the removal of the cause. Blood should
be drawn, both venally and locally, to a con-
siderable extent, and the antiphlogistic plan
should be adhered to. The bowels should be kept
perfectly soluble, and, when the violence of the
attack has somewhat abated, a blister over the
affected part proves very serviceable. When it ap-
pears to have originated from the local action
of a disease of the brain, our object should be to

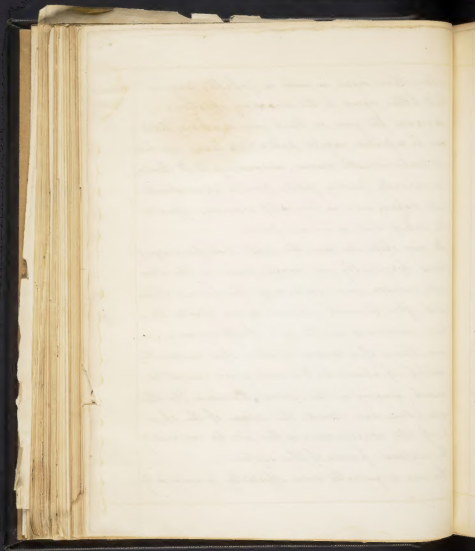


relieve that organ, as early as possible, paying but little regard to the secondary affection.

As regards the green or black jaundice, very little can be expected, except palliation, from any kind of treatment—the disease, according to St. Billie, is necessarily proving fatal. Near the life, we should not despair, and as long as life is lasting, afford all the relief that is in our power.

In very obstinate cases, the most distressing symptoms frequently are acute pain in the stomach, nausea, and costiveness. The former of them will often be much relieved by an opiate. The latter medicines in the act of effluvia cause, or something of a cordial nature, often relieve the distress of stomach. We must guard against too much purging in this disease. Provided the other symptoms have ceased, the ecchymosis of the skin is of little consequence, as this will be removed by the natural powers of the system.

The cure is generally more effectually promoted by



a well regulated regimen, consisting of the light
feminine activity, together with the moderate
use of the agreeable bathing or marsh-mal preparations.
Moderate exercise, especially on horse back, will
also be of considerable advantage.

A predisposition to jaundice being now established,
a surgeon to us is very apt to take place; so that
the patient should studiously avoid all its exciting
causes as inappropriate diet or clothing, exposure to
cold, exertion, immoderate exercise and violent pas-
sions of the mind, &c.

With the assurance that the humble efforts of an
inexperienced writer, will be regarded with lenity by
those who are to be my judges, in accordance
with the requests of our University; I must accept
fully submitted this imperfect essay, as my in-
augural dissertation.

